

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 permanently authorized the Independent Living Program (ILP) which offers training, services and programs to assist current and former foster youth achieve self-sufficiency prior to and after leaving the foster care system. Federal statute, H.R. 3443, the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169), amended Section 477 of the Social Security Act providing more flexibility in ILP funding (See 42 USC 677).

### SERVICES OFFERED

The core services are based on the youth's individual needs and goals as described in their Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). Services assist youth with the following: education, career development, financial budgeting skills, health, safety, housing and permanency, etc.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility is determined by county social workers/probation officers. Youth are eligible for ILP services at age 16 up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday provided one of the following criteria is met:

- Youth are/were in foster care at any time between their 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> birthdays.
- Youth is/was a former dependent who entered into a kinship guardianship at any age and is receiving Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP) between the ages of 16-18.
- Youth is/was a former dependent who entered into a non-related guardianship after attaining age 8 and is receiving permanent placement services.

Youth who have exited from foster care remain eligible for ILP services up to the age of 21 provided they meet the eligibility criteria above.

Although all 58 County Welfare Departments are required to offer an ILP, youth participation is voluntary. Counties have flexibility in their program structure.

### HOW TO APPLY?

In California, County Welfare Departments have the flexibility to design services to meet a wide range of individual needs and circumstances for current and former foster youth. If eligible, the youth's social worker or probation officer will refer them to the county ILP coordinator.

### ANNUAL STATE ALLOCATION

Federal Funding for ILP for Fiscal Year 2013/14 was \$16,974,129.

### EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Daily living skills  
Money management  
Decision making  
Safety Skills  
Career Development  
Building Self-esteem  
Medical  
Help with accessing financial assistance for college or vocational schools  
Educational Resources  
Housing (Transitional Housing)  
Employment

### WHERE TO GO FOR CLASSES AND SERVICES?

The county ILP Coordinator will help youth find the nearest location. Contact [ILP@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ILP@dss.ca.gov) to obtain contact information for the county ILP Coordinator.

Many programs are held at local community colleges. Partners in providing services are: Foster Care Ombudsman Office, California Youth Connection, America's Job Centers, Workforce Investment Act Programs, etc.